

ACVA Invitation

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Tristan,

As you know, the House Standing Committee on **Veterans Affairs** (ACVA) has formally requested that National Defence officials appear on **Tuesday, February 15**, from 6:30 pm – 8:30pm to discuss the recent events by protestors at the War Memorial (text of the motion below).

DMO and CDSO have approved the appearance of the CAF Historian, Dr. Stephen Harris. Dr. Harris will not be in uniform, though, like many civilians, he reports to CMP (MGen Bourgon). Dr. Harris also appeared before ACVA last year and understands the committee dynamics and his role / lanes with regard to this particular appearance.

The ACVA Clerk is pressing us to confirm our witness. Based on your earlier guidance, I trust we can proceed to confirm with the Clerk and I am sharing this info for your awareness.

ACVA – Tuesday, February 15 from 6:30 pm – 8:30pm Virtual (Zoom)
· Dr. Stephen Harris , Canadian Armed Forces Chief Historian

Motion of the study:

That, given the shameful and disrespectful behaviour shown by protestors at the National War Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs undertake an urgent study to review these actions and that witnesses be limited to the representatives of the Ottawa Police Service, of the Royal Canadian Legion, of the Assembly of First Nations Veterans Council, and government officials from Veterans Affairs Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, and Public Services and Procurement Canada.

For your awareness:

- We have communicated to the Clerk that National Defence's role and expertise regarding military monuments is historical, meaning any experts DND/CAF could propose for this study would only be able to provide historical expertise and testimony regarding the monument. Given that the recent actions by protestors at the National War Memorial is a law enforcement issue, DND/CAF officials would not be in a position to provide testimony on this subject, unless there is an interest in the history of military monuments.
 - o Despite this rationale, the Clerk indicated that the Committee would still like to hear from National Defence officials.

- Parliamentary Affairs has confirmed that officials from VAC and PSPC will attend, and that PSPC will lead this appearance and provide opening remarks. The National Defence official will not provide opening remarks.
- National Defence's witness will only respond to questions related to the history of the monuments.
- Parliamentary Affairs has provided guidance and a prep session for Dr. Harris. During this prep session we ensured that Dr. Harris understands the importance of staying clearly in his lane.

Standing by to answer any questions you may have. Thank you,

Katie

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